

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Treatment Committee
April 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM
Middletown Police Department

- I. In attendance were: Kerry Ferriter, Dan Armstrong, Melissa Kearney, Blanche Creech, Ellie Torres, Shamla McLaurin and Rob Coupe

DVCC Staff: Natasha Smith, Moe Monagle and Aimee String

II. Old Business

a. Assessment of treatment programs: Project Update

- i. The Assessment is wrapping up. Key informant interview, staff interviews, analysis of DELJIS records and program observations have all been completed. The final piece of the evaluation is the collection of exit surveys from program participants. Programs will continue to collect those through April 15th. We will have the final report and recommendations in hand on May 15th and will be able to review the report at our next Treatment meeting. Some of the preliminary results suggest that there is correlation between the number of treatment sessions attended and recidivism rates. The committee looks forward to reviewing the final report.
- ii. Barbara sends her appreciation to the committee and the treatment programs for their support of the evaluation.

b. National trend towards re-naming Batterer's Intervention Programs

- i. At our September 14, 2016 Meeting, Aimee informed the committee that there had been considerable discussion in Aquila (an international batterer's intervention group) about the need to change the language "Batterer's Intervention". There is a large movement of people who believe that we should be labeling behaviors and not the person.
- ii. At the International Batterer's Intervention Conference (discussed below), the topic received considerable attention. Aimee noted that there are two schools of thought on the topic. There is a group of people who believe that we should use the term "Batterer" because that is what a person who abuses another is and it's important to identify that (ie: Alcoholics Anonymous). The other school of thought is that by identifying

someone as a “batterer” it labels them and makes it difficult for a person to lose that label.

- iii. Aimee noted that in the discussion it appears that the national trend is leaning towards not using the term “batterer”. Programs have changed to: Domestic Violence Treatment Program, Domestic Abuse Intervention Program etc.
- iv. Ellie noted that judges call them “Domestic Violence Treatment” Programs.
- v. Dan noted that it was 2002 when we began calling it “Batterer’s Intervention”.
- vi. The committee would like to move away from using the term Batterer’s Intervention Program. Most of the treatment programs do not use that terminology now. When we begin the revision of our standards, we will need to tighten up the language within that document.

c. International Batterer’s Intervention Conference

- i. Aimee attended the Conference in Dearborn, Michigan from Nov 2-4th. She reported that there were many notable and nationally recognized speakers including Jackson Katz, Chis Huffine, Dr. Edward Gondolf and Dr. Eric Mankowski (who is responsible for developing the Participant Exit Survey being used in Delaware’s Assessment).
- ii. Aimee had the opportunity to speak briefly with Dr. Eric Mankowski about the progress of Delaware’s Treatment Program Assessment. He is very eager to see the final results and mentioned the Assessment in his presentation as “forward thinking work”.
- iii. Aimee noted that a hot topic at the conference was the need for Batterer’s Intervention Providers to obtain more training on technology and how it is being used by individuals who batter. Technology is being used both as a means to stalk and control victims. The technology changes by the moment so it’s imperative that providers receive training on the topic. It was noted at the conference that providers need technology training at least once a year to stay “reasonably informed”.

d. New Business

- i. DVCC Sponsored education credits for treatment providers
 - 1. Last year we were able to provide training hours for Delaware Treatment Providers through the Assessment Grant. That funding will not be available this year but the committee would still like to be able to provide training hours to treatment providers as it is costly to go out of state for training hours.

2. The DVCC has been approached by David Adams of Emerge about doing a free training in Delaware. Emerge's funding requires targeting Judges and Commissioners but Aimee has spoken to him about the possibility of working training in for the treatment providers. Emerge has been agreeable so this may be a viable way of providing those training hours.
- ii. Public Comment
 1. None
- iii. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 19th at 10:00 AM at the Middletown Police Department